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light upon a point in the Natural History of the wolves of North America, which has heretofore been involved in obscurity. Before the description of the *Lupus Gigas* of North America, by Dr. Townsend, all the varieties of wolves in this country were referred by naturalists to two species, the *Lupus occidentalis* or common wolf, and the *Lupus latrans*, or prairie wolf. Sir John Richardson was the first who unequivocally described the wolves of North America, as distinct from the European or Pyrenean wolf. The great majority of naturalists who have noticed the wolves of this continent, including Grey, Agassiz, De Kay, &c., agree with him in considering them as entirely distinct species from the wolves of the Eastern Continent.\* With the exception of the "large brown wolf," of Lewis and Clarke, they all refer the American wolves of every variety to the two species named *Lupus occidentalis*, and *Lupus latrans*. It was scarcely possible to reconcile the various descriptions of the different wolves classed under the last of these, *Lupus latrans*, as belonging to the same animal. The *Lupus latrans* of Say, found on the *Upper* Missouri and the Saskatchewan, is classed by Richardson† with the Californian *Ochropus*, and the Mexican *nigrirostris*, (known also as the Coyote.) He has given a figure of the *Lupus latrans*, which agrees exactly with a specimen in the possession of the Academy.

The figure given by Audubon in his Quadrupeds of North America, Plate 71st, does *not* agree with Richardson's, or with the specimen above referred to, but *does* agree very closely with the *Canis frustror*, in color, shape, &c. It is an excellent drawing of the last mentioned animal. The Coyote of Mexico and California, has been, we believe, uniformly referred by naturalists to the *Lupus latrans*, and the drawing of Audubon appears to have been made from it, considered as an undoubted Prairie wolf. The figure of the Hare Indian dog of Richardson, the *Canis familiaris lagopus*, bears a very striking resemblance to the *Lupus latrans* of Audubon, and the *Canis frustror* of Woodhouse. We are inclined from the figure, measurements, and description of the voice, to consider this dog as the analogue among our domestic animals of the *Canis frustror* or Coyote, if it be not the same animal merely domesticated. From the *Canis frustror* hunting so uniformly in packs of considerable numbers, as well as its size, it is more nearly allied to the Jackal than the wolf. It is decidedly gregarious in its habits. We hope that the Academy will soon possess good specimens of all the wolves of this continent, so that a more strict comparison may be made, and this question of species be definitely settled. At present we may consider the following species as clearly established, viz : *Lupus gigas*, *Lupus occidentalis*, *Lupus latrans*, and *Canis frustror*.

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On leave granted Mr. Vaux, as Treasurer of the Publication Committee, presented the Annual Report, which was adopted.

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February 11th.

Dr. MORTON, President, in the Chair.

A letter was read from Dr. N. S. Jarvis, addressed to Dr. Morton, dated Ft. Brown, Texas, Jan. 10, 1851, in answer to some enquiries by

\* Report of the British Association for 1836.

† Fauna Boreali Americana.

Dr. Morton on the subject of the Lobos, Coyote and Indian dogs. This letter was received by Dr. Morton on the 5th inst., and enclosed another in the French language from Dr. Louis Berlandier to Dr. Jarvis, dated Matamoras, Jan. 5th, 1851, with accompanying descriptions of several species of *Canis* indigenous to Mexico. Dr. Berlandier's knowledge and means of information on this subject had been very extensive, and his descriptions were well worthy the notice of the Society. His letter and descriptions were on motion referred to the Committee who had charge of Dr. Woodhouse's paper, viz., Dr. J. C. Fisher, Dr. Leidy, and Dr. Morton.

Mr. Cassin stated, on behalf of the committee having in charge Dr. T. C. Henry's paper describing a new species of Fish from Oswego Lake, N. Y., that a more extended communication had been received from the author by the Committee.

Mr. Cassin read a paper intended for publication in the Proceedings entitled, "Sketch of the Birds composing the green Vireo Vieill. and Vireosylvia, Bonap." &c. Referred to Dr. Wilson, Dr. Bridges, and Mr. E. Harris.

February 18th.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Mr. Cassin read a paper describing new species of the green Bucco and Galbula, Briss. Referred to the committee on the paper by Mr Cassin read at last meeting.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, dated Aug. 5, 1850, acknowledging the receipt of Part 3, Vol. 1, New Series of the Journal.

February 25th.

DR. MORTON, President, in the Chair.

The Committee on Mr. Cassin's papers, read 1th and 18th insts., reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings.

*Sketch of the Birds composing the genera Vireo, Vieillot, and Vireosylvia, Bonaparte, with a List of the previously known and descriptions of three new species.*

BY JOHN CASSIN.

1. *Genus VIREO*, Vieillot. Hist. Nat. des Ois. de l'Am. Sept. i, p. 83 (Folio, Paris, 1807.

1. *Vireo flavifrons*, Vieill. Ois. d'Am. Sept. i, p. 85, pl. 54. Aud. B. of Am. pt. 119.

*Musivicapa sylvicola*, Wilson. Am. Orn. i, p. 217, pl. 7, fig. 3.

*Hab.*—Eastern side of North America.

*Obs.*—The name given by Wilson, as above, of this handsome species, ap-